

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A folding grooming table step system comprising:
 - a frame including:
 - a U-shaped angled forward member forming two spaced legs and a connecting base member,
 - a U-shaped vertically disposed rearward member hinged to the forward member and including two spaced legs connected by a base member, and
 - a connecting rod spanning the two spaced legs of the rearward member;
 - a plurality of wide, deeply offset steps with a low rise each hingedly connected to the angled forward member; and
 - a pair of bracket members each hingedly connected directly to each of the steps and each including an elongated guide channel therein through which the connecting rod extends to allow the steps and the rearward frame member to fold proximate the forward frame member,
 - each elongated channel including a detent which releasably locks the connecting rod with respect to the bracket members when the steps and the rearward frame member are unfolded.
2. (original) The system of claim 1 in which there are three steps each wider than 12 inches, each deeper than 6 inches, each having a rise less than nine inches, each having an offset greater than seven inches.

3. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the width of each step is greater than 14 inches.
4. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the width of each step is greater than 16 inches.
5. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the offset between adjacent steps is greater than seven inches.
6. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the depth of the steps is greater than 8 inches.
7. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the depth of the steps is greater than 10 inches.
8. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the rise of the steps is less than nine inches.
9. (original) The system of claim 1 in which there are bushings between each step and the bracket members.
10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further including rubber feet on the

bottom of the forward member and the rearward member.

11. (original) The system of claim 1 in which each step include a grooved rubber covering.

12. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the steps are constructed of chrome plated steel.

13. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the U-shaped angled forward frame member is square in cross section.

14. (original) The system of claim 1 in which the majority of the U-shaped vertically disposed rearward frame member is round in cross section.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 in which the hinged connection between the U-shaped vertically disposed rearward frame member and the U-shaped angled forward frame member comprises a distal tang extending from each leg of the U-shaped vertically disposed rearward frame member each received in a slot formed in each leg of the U-shaped angled forward frame member.

16. (currently amended) A step system comprising:
an angled forward frame portion including two spaced legs having upper and lower ends, said legs connected by a base member at the lower ends of said spaced legs;

a rearward frame portion hinged to the forward frame portion; and
a plurality of steps each hingedly connected to the angled forward frame portion,
each step wider than 12 inches, deeper than 6 inches, having a rise less than 9 inches, and having an
offset between adjacent steps greater than 7 inches.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The system of claim 16 in which the rearward frame portion includes two
spaced legs.

19. (original) The system of claim 18 further including a connecting rod spanning the
two spaced legs of the rearward frame portion.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 further including a pair of bracket members each
hingedly connected to the steps and each including an elongated guide channel through which the
connecting rod extends to allow the steps and the rearward frame portion to fold proximate the
forward frame portion.

21. (currently amended) A folding grooming table step system comprising:

a frame including:

an angled forward frame portion including two spaced legs having upper and
lower ends, and a connecting base member connecting the legs at the lower ends of said
legs,

a rearward frame portion including spaced legs hinged to the forward frame portion;

a connecting rod spanning the two spaced legs of the rearward frame portion;

a plurality of steps each hingedly connected to the angled forward portion, each step wider than 12 inches and deeper than 6 inches, each step having a rise less than 9 inches and an offset greater than 7 inches; and

a pair of bracket members each hingedly connected to the steps and each including an elongated guide channel through which the connecting rod extends to allow the steps and the rearward frame portion to fold proximate the forward frame portion.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) The system of claim 21 in which the rearward frame portion includes a base member connecting the two spaced legs.

24. (currently amended) A folding grooming table step system comprising:

a U-shaped angled forward member forming two space legs and a connecting base member;

a U-shaped vertically disposed rearward member hinged to the forward member and including two spaced legs connected by a base member;

a connecting rod spanning the two spaced legs of the rearward member;

a plurality of steps each hingedly connected to the angled forward member; and

a pair of bracket members each hingedly connected directly to opposite sides of each

of the steps and each including an elongated guide channel ~~therein~~ through which the connecting rod extends to allow the steps and the rearward member to fold proximate the forward member.

25. (currently amended) A folding step system foldable flat for storage and transport comprising:

a foldable frame including:

a U-shaped angled forward member forming two spaced legs and a connecting base member therebetween; and

a U-shaped vertically disposed rearward member hinged to the forward member and including two spaced legs connected by a base member therebetween; and

three wide steps each hingedly connected to the foldable frame, each step wider than 12 inches, deeper than 6 inches, having a rise less than 9 inches, and each adjacent step offset by a distance greater than 7 inches, the top step being at least 24 inches high.